

among them defend the asserter of
untruth ? who are
the encouragers of evil -deeds ?*

5. These thy friends, AGNI, everywhere
dispersed,
were formerly unhappy (in abandoning thy
worship),
but are again fortunate (by its renewal) :
may they
who, with (censorious) words, impute
fraudulent (prac-
tices) to me who pursue a straight path,
bring evil
upon themselves.

. 6. May the dwelling of him, AGNI, who
celebrates
thy worship with reverence, of him who
protects the
sacrifice (offered) to the resplendent
showcrer (of
benefits), be well stored ; and may a
virtuous suc-
cessor of the man who diligently worships
thee come in
his place.

STAKTA XIII. (XIII.)

**The deity and *Rishi* as before ; the metre
is *Gdyatri***

1. Adoring thee, AGNI, we invoke thee:
adoring
thee we kindle thee, adoring thee for
protection.

2. Desirous of wealth, we recite to day
the effectual
praise of the divine AGNI, (whose
radiance) reaches
the s.ky.²

3. May AGNI, who amongst men is the
invoker of
the gods, accept our praises; raay he offer
sacrifice to
the divine beings.

4. Thou, AGNI, art mighty and gracious,
the (mini-
strant) priest, the desired (of all) :
tlirough thee the
worshippers complete the sacrifice.

¹ The two last are persons not worshipping
Ayni' but the
verse may be also thus rendered, who are they
that confine
their foes ? who are they that preserve men from
uttering un-
truth ? who are they that vindicate people from
calumny ? they
vre, Agni, thy worshippers.

³ This and the two next verses occur *Sdma-*
Veda, n. 705—
757.